



Steven Clarke  
Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs  
100 Cambridge Street  
Suite 900  
Boston, MA 02114

January 29, 2008

RE: Advanced Biofuels Task Force Hearing Written Comments

Dear Steven:

Berkshire Biodiesel congratulates the Governor, the Speaker, and the Senate President for their leadership in sponsoring landmark advanced biofuels legislation and, indeed, creating this Task Force. The nation is desperate for such leadership, and we're proud it's coming from Massachusetts.

Biodiesel is the only advanced biofuel available today that will reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) and toxic emissions and improve public health while offering a positive net energy balance. Further, because it is American made it also helps our economy and reduces our national trade deficit, and as a result, improves national security.

Others who have testified before the Task Force disagree, and they ask that the legislature not provide incentives for biodiesel use – even biodiesel produced from waste restaurant oils, animal fats, and domestic soybean oil – until such time as researchers develop an acceptable, and presumably peer-reviewed, low carbon fuel standard.

While we support an LCFS, we also feel strongly that their approach would result in paralysis by analysis. As a state, and as a nation, we cannot afford to sit back and do nothing while academicians attempt to develop new kinds of models. Very simply, the path they would have us follow would result in more oil consumption, with all the attendant problems.

The clock is ticking for all of us, and indeed for the planet. Infrastructure – for production and distribution – takes time to design, permit, finance, and build. We simply cannot afford to wait for the perfect solution, when good partial solutions are available.

Most reasonable people agree that “biodiesel done right,” i.e., from waste oils, animal fats, domestic soybean oil, etc., will move our state and the nation in the right direction – away from fossil fuels. And as such we offer a number of legislative recommendations to increase the production, distribution, and consumption of just that: “biodiesel done right.”

Lee Harrison  
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